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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

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March 2011

President's Message

Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ

Hi All,

It looks like spring has sprung. That means a fresh start for mother nature and for the Vaca Valley Radio Club as well.

We have a few changes for the new year.

There is a change of net time to 8:00 PM to allow more members to participate. Please set your reminders for 8:00 Tuesday evening and join in.

Bob Hewitt, K6HEW, has put together a new VVRC website. Put vacvalleyradio.net into your internet browser and have a look.

Each club member will be given an email address so we can easily communicate amongst ourselves. It will look like this: yourcallsign@vacavalleyradio.net. Emails adressed to w6vvr@vacavalleyradio.net will be readable by all club officers.

If you know someone wanting to get their Technician license, there is an exam session scheduled for 7:00 PM, March 24th at LDS Church, 2700 Camrose Avenue in Fairfield.

The next meeting is March 9th at the same place and time.

Hope to see you there.

73,
Scott Joseph KI6YYZ

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February Meeting Minutes

Our meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by our Vice President Marcus Maclean KI6WDX, our president was out of town on business.

The January meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

The financial report was submitted by our club treasure with highlights as follows: General Fund Balance = $2,310.88, Repeater Fund Balance = $656.00, Prize Fund Balance = $21.00

Old Business: The addition of the second signer on the club checking account has been completed in good order. Now Bob Hewitt K6HEW or Jerry Olive KD6WKY can sign checks. The additional signer was added as a matter of good business procedure.

New Business: It was authorized that Bob Hewitt K6HEW would be authorized to spend $10 per month to establish a club URL.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

We have a Winner!

Congratulations go out to Antonio Del Rio N6ZGB who is the winner of the Kenwood TR7400A raffle.

Each club member that attended a meeting between last September 2010 and this February 2011 got a change to win this fine radio.

The radio was donated to the club by W6OMF. An accompanying tone board was donated by WA6CAX. Thanks

Meeting and Events
Date Day Location Topic

3/9/2011 Wed Vine St. Fire Station Regular meeting
4/13/2011 Wed No meeting this month Moved to 4/26/11
4/26/2011 Tue Vine St. Fire Station Dean Straw, N6BV Using VOAAREA
5/11/2011 Wed No meeting this month Moved to 5/11/11
5/14/2011 Sat Vine St. Fire Station R. Holoch, KY6R, DX-ing With Wire Array's
5/14/2011 Sat Penna Adobe Park March for Babies
6/8/2011 Wed To be determined Barbeque? Pizza?
7/13/2011 Wed No meeting this month
8/10/2011 Wed No meeting this month
9/3/2011 Sat QTH of W6OMF Ham only Swap Meet
9/14/2011 Wed Vine St. Fire Station Regular meeting
10/12/2011 Wed Vine St. Fire Station Regular meeting
11/9/2011 Wed Vine St. Fire Station Regular meeting
11/29/2011 Tue Downtown Vacaville Merriment on Main
12/14/2011 Wed To be determined Holiday

No HF Frequencies Being Used in New Zealand Earthquake Operations

The ARRL has just received word from the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- that amateurs there providing communications support in the aftermath of the 6.3 earthquake are using 2 meters (144 MHz). No HF frequencies are being used. If this changes, the information will be posted on the ARRL website.

Editor's Note—This is interesting. I would have thought a 2Øm or 4Øm net would be the SOP for such an operation.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2009 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ
Vice President: Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, W6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman KE6MDM

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Open
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Amateur MF Allocation Moves a Step Closer

02/24/2011

Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz. Two possible methods of satisfying the agenda item, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

What is now called Method A envisions an allocation of up to 15 kHz between 472 and 487 kHz. Method B calls for allocations of 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz. Another Method that had been developed at earlier meetings of Working Party 5A of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, for an allocation of about 15 kHz between 493 and 510 kHz, was dropped from the draft CPM Report because no support for this approach had developed among the administrations participating in the preparatory process. A new digital system centered on 500 kHz is being developed by the maritime radio community, and an amateur allocation, even on a secondary, not-to-interfere basis, was found to be incompatible with the planned system.

"The hard work of a team of radio amateurs led by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) -- and with considerable help from friendly administrations -- has gotten us to this point," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, who attended the first half of the CPM on behalf of the IARU. "While more support will need to be developed among other administrations if we are to achieve an allocation at WRC-12, our prospects are better now than they were a week ago." He gave particular credit to Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, who has coordinated the IARU effort and gained valuable support from the Canadian administration. "Ken and the IARU team have been working on this issue for three years," Sumner said.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX attended the CPM as a member of the United States delegation. The US supports what is now called Method B, which also has sufficient support among other administrations in the Americas to have become an Inter-American Proposal of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) [see this article for more information]. At this stage, what is now called Method A has support from several administrations in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

WRC-12 will be held in Geneva next year from January 23 to February 17.

Observations on Stacking Antennas

By Marcus Maclean KI6WDX

If any of you ever decide to mount yourself a stacked pair of Diamond Yagis for either 2 meter or 70 cm, here is Diamond's part # for it's matched & balanced 75 ohm preassembled w/ PL-239's cable for use with it's antenna stacking's:

SS770R (cable connection assembly)

KB144R or KB430R (Support for 1 Yagi)

SB144R or SB430R (support boom element for stacking either Yagi's)

The cable kit is relatively inexpensive if one takes in the time & materials to DIY and especially so if things go wrong. It's not publicized, but it is available if one were to ask their radio dealer or store. RF Parts keeps a few around in both their Georgia & southern Calif. warehouse's.

I've got a pair of 70 cm Yagis coming and stacking 2 -10 element Yagis will give me about 15 dBi which is about 2 less than the 15 element and while I was wanting the 15's, I was concerned about erecting a stacked pair of them in the wind my area seems to always have as each one is about 7-1/2 ft. and two together mounted on a support boom & attached via a rotor and another support pole got me to thinking about the safety issue. Not so the weight (everything figured together is light), but trying to place it in place. A stacked pair of 15's would net me about 17 dBi!

Let's talk about this at the club meeting this week!

Seeing the HF Propagation "Big Picture" Using VOAAREA

By Dean Straw N6BV

When: April 16, 2011

Where: Vacaville Fire Protection District Fire Station #64
420 Vine Street (cross street—Gibson Canyon Road)
Vacaville, CA 95688

Time: 8:00 PM

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please email us at w6vvr@vacavalleyradio.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Plenty of parking, Onsite restrooms, Handicap ramp, Plenty of seating, Refreshments served (no alcohol, please!)

R. Dean Straw, N6BV was a guest speaker at Pacifi-Con, has been licensed for 52 yrs. while holding 6 call signs, is a graduate of Yale in electronics engineering and worked for National Radio Co. where he designed SSB & VHF radios. He was in the marine electronics industry for 25 yrs. and he retired in 2008 from ARRL HQ's after 15 yrs. where he was the editor of The Antenna Book including many other books. He resides in San Francisco with his wife.

For Sale!

The following items are for sale. Please contact Larry Hogue W6OMF for details:

Yaesu FT-912R in the box, complete... $225 + $25 shipping http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ft912r.htm

Grundig YB 400 Shortwave receiver, Complete $75 + $25 shipping http://www.dxing.com/rx/yb400.htm

Yaesu FT-212RH two meter FM mobile $50 + $25 Shipping
http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ft212rh.htm
Radio, manual, mount, MH-15 c8 mic.

Kenwood TM-455A UHF Transceiver $350 + $25 Shipping
http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/545
Radio, Mic, Pwr Cord, Mobile Bracket and NO MANUAL!!!

KENWOOD TM-742A TRI BANDER 6/2/440 BOX, BOOK, PWR CORD, AND MIKE. $700 + 25 Shipping

KENWOOD TS-570D HF 160-10 METERS BOX, BOOK, MIKE, PWR CORD. $550 + 25 Shipping

AMPLIFIERS FOR SALE

RFC 2-317 $170 (144) + 20 Shipping

RFC 2-417 $170 (144) + 20 Shipping

COMMANDER II $1500 (144) two people have tried to make arrangements for a meeting and pickup... not happening... So I hate to ship but if they really want to take the chance I can pull the transformer and ship in two boxes... It will be working when it leaves here... It will be packed right but will be your

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://www.vacavalleyradio.net
Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+)
W6OMF Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz.

right but will be your baby... exact shipping charges…

YAESU FT-530 DUEL BAND HT, WITH FNB-26XS 7.2V 2100 mAh BATTERY, MH-12 A2B SPEAKER MIC, NC-42 DROP IN CHARGER, NC-18B WALL WART, AND BOOK. $150 + 20 shipping

FT-736R ORGINAL WITH BOX, OPERATION MANUAL, DC PWR CORD, CTCSS, VOICE, CW FILTER, MAINTENCE MANUAL, AND HAND MIC. $700 + exact shipping.

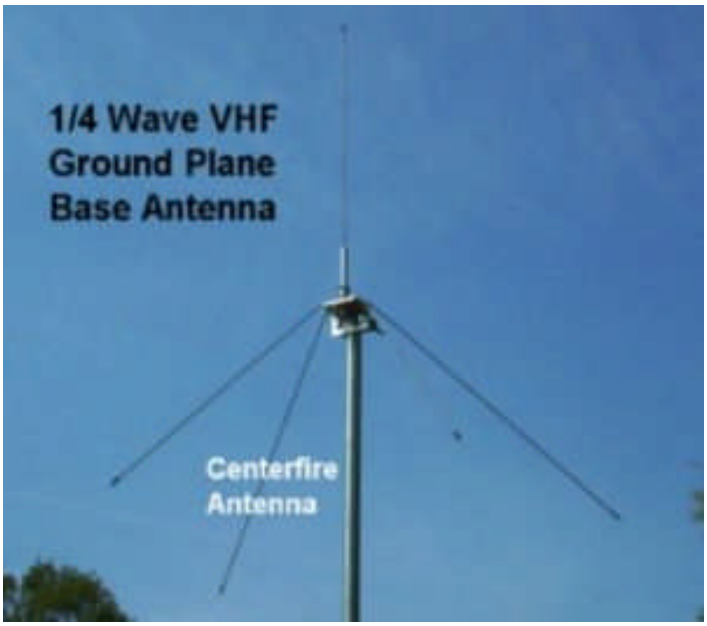
All the equipment is as is and no implied warranty or returns.

Around the Shack

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

I'm working on an addition to my radio shack set up that I thought I'd have up and running by now. I purchased on Ebay a Kenwood TM-261A, two meter FM transceiver with mounting bracket and DTMF keypad microphone.

The radio tested fine, no problem there. However the old J-Pole antenna I had sitting by the shed that a friend gave me several years ago turned out to be junk. So now I have another antenna coming this week. I purchase a Centerfire two meter antenna that should work fine.



My intent is to be able to talk on two meters FM from inside my house without using an HT. I have my Kenwood TM-G707A in one of my cars, but that's a hassle unless I'm driving that car.

I have this radio split between the trunk and the dash using the extension kits for speaker, handset, and control display. I just don't want to take it out of the car, it's installed professionally.

I think my next radio will be for the Honda Civic that I drive daily. Not sure what kind I will purchase yet.

I was on the radio this week just before 7am watching spots on my cluster. I saw a spot for VK9C/G6AY over in the Indian Ocean on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

I listened, drank coffee, ate oatmeal, then noticed the signal was building so I set up to work him running split frequencies. By listening first you can see how the operator is running and what their habits are.

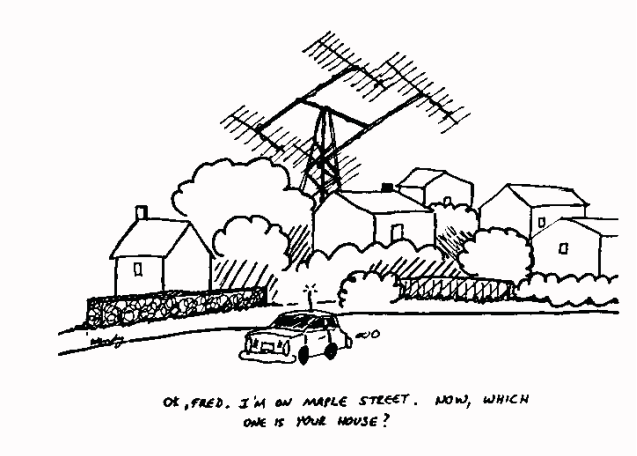
I got in there and worked him on the 3Ø meter band using my GAP Titan DX Vertical antenna and 100 watts power.

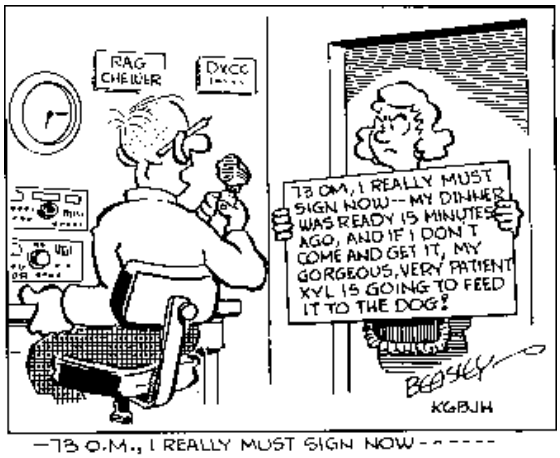
Now here is the interesting part. I stayed on frequency and listened some more. Within about 10 minutes his signal began to fade out and within 15 minutes he was gone. Had I not been sitting listening to my radio I would have missed him completely.

I've seen the spots for VK9C/G6AY several times but could never hear him. You can't work him if you can't hear him, right?

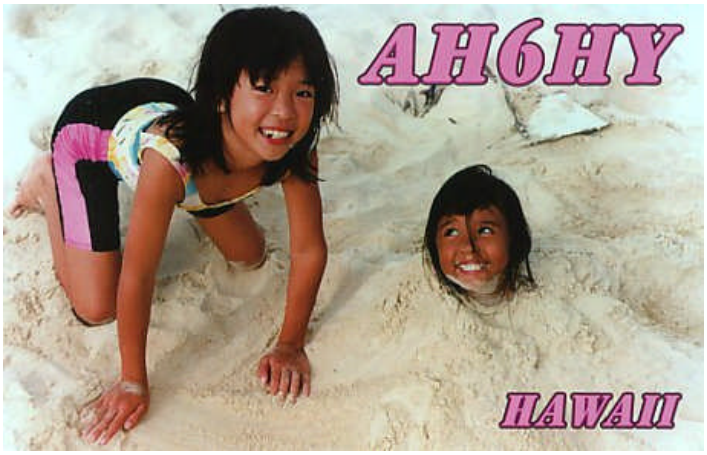
Now much closer to home is a group of three radio amateurs on Sable Island in the North Atlantic off the coast of Canada. Nothing there but land and wild horses, I researched it. I've been trying to work those guys over on CYØ for two days now with no luck.

It's called the East Coast wall. Radio amateurs on the east coast very close to the DX QTH have a very strong signal over powering my vertical antenna and my full 500 watts. All I can do is watch, listen, and keep trying. Sometimes the close ones are the hardest to work. 73!





—73 O.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW - - - - -



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues ----------$20.00 _____
Each Family Member ---$ 2.00 _____
Student ----------$ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation--- _____
Call/Name badge ---------$10.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues----------$37.00 _____
Senior is 65 yr or older with one time proof on age.

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143